

**BAKER HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE ALABAMA BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (March 15, 2023) — In its 38th year of honoring the nation’s best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Labaron Philon** of **Baker High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Alabama Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Philon is the first Gatorade Alabama Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Baker High School.

The award, which recognizes not only outstanding athletic excellence, but also high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character demonstrated on and off the court, distinguishes Philon as Alabama’s best high school boys basketball player. Philon joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Chet Holmgren (2020-21, Minnehaha Academy, Minn.), Trae Young (2016-17, Norman North High School, Ok.), Jayson Tatum (2015-16, Chaminade College Preparatory School, Mo.), and Karl-Anthony Towns (2013-14 & 2012-13, St. Joseph High School, N.J.).

The 6-foot-4, 175-pound junior guard averaged 34.7 points and 6.0 rebounds per game this past season, leading the Hornets (25-7) to the Class 7A state quarterfinals. Philon also averaged 4.0 assists and 2.5 steals per game, concluding the season with 1,075 points. The 2022 Class 7A Player of the Year as a sophomore, Philon is ranked as the nation’s No. 29 recruit in the Class of 2024 by ESPN.com. He concluded his junior year with 2,357 points in his prep basketball career.

Philon has volunteered locally as a youth basketball coach. “He is a prolific scoring guard who loves to get out and attack the basket,” said Paul Biancardi, National Recruiting Director for ESPN. “His speed with the ball in the open floor allows him to get by defenders. Philon’s 3-point shot has developed over the past six months, too, and his offensive game is best at a faster pace when he can transition defense into offense. He is dedicated to improving and has been a sterling example of a great teammate.”

Philon has maintained a B average in the classroom. He will begin his senior year of high school this fall.

The [Gatorade Player of the Year](#) program annually recognizes one winner in the District of Columbia and each of the 50 states that sanction high school football, girls volleyball, boys and girls cross country, boys and girls basketball, boys and girls soccer, baseball, softball, and boys and girls track & field, and awards one National Player of the Year in each sport. The selection process is administered by the Gatorade Player of the Year Selection Committee, which leverages experts including coaches, scouts, media and others as sources to help evaluate and determine the state winners in each sport.

Philon joins recent Gatorade Alabama Boys Basketball Players of the Year Barry Dunning (2021-22 & 2020-21, McGill-Toolen Catholic High School), JerDarrian Davison (2019-20, The Calhoun School), and Trendon Watford (2018-19, Mountain Brook High School), among the state’s list of former award winners.

Being a Gatorade Player of the Year means paying it forward for the next generation. Through Gatorade’s Play it Forward initiative, every Player of the Year receives a grant to give to one of Gatorade’s social impact partners, supporting Gatorade’s ambition to fuel the future of sport. To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners’ grants have totaled more than \$3.5 million across more than 1,300 organizations.

For nearly 40 years, Gatorade has honored high school athletes at the top of their game as teammates, supporting their communities and achieving academic success. From CEOs and coaches to star athletes and community leaders, Gatorade Player of the Year winners showcase the power of sport.

To learn more about the Gatorade Player of the Year program, check out past winners or to nominate student-athletes, visit playeroftheyear.gatorade.com or follow us on social media on Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY, Instagram at instagram.com/Gatorade and Twitter at twitter.com/Gatorade.

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